

Today's News - Thursday, November 13, 2008

- How architects can buoy up business in the downturn: 20 essential steps to show you how to check your practice's financial health.
- Gehry and his AGO take center stage: Hume says it's the "most effortless and relaxed architectural masterpiece Toronto has seen."
- The master's only regret: the rift it caused with his friend Barton Myers.
- An in-depth look at the AGO's often contentious relationship with its neighbors now it's broken out of its "ivory-tower syndrome."
- Rybczynski's "Piano's California Adventure Part II": he likes it a lot!
- Brussat on Providence's "Make no little plans" charrette: maybe a recession is "a really good time to practice the ethos of "small is beautiful""?
- Bay Area architects making their marks on Shanghai.
- British firms barred from US Embassy competition ("for security reasons" huh?).
- Meanwhile, British architecture and urban planning students are being trained how to reduce the impact of terrorism in the buildings they design.
- Baguio City (Philippines) revisits its 1906 Burnham Plan as a template that could be applied to current urban renewal.
- Under threat: a mid-century modern Lord & Taylor in Connecticut; and Trinidad's "Painted Ladies." - A look at the 3 (green) Czech buildings up for the Mies van der Rohe Award.
- Call for Entries: ASLA 2009 Professional and Student Awards.
- A good reason to head to Dubai: The Big 5 Technical Conference and GAIA Awards.

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How can architects buoy up business in the downturn? It's a cliché that 'cash is king' in uncertain times, but many a firm has gone bust with a healthy order book...20 essential steps to show you how to check your practice's financial health.- BD/Building Design (UK)

Revamped AGO a modest masterpiece: Architect doesn't seek to reinvent the art gallery, just perfect it. The Art Gallery of Ontario may not be one of Frank Gehry's biggest projects, but it is one of his best...most effortless and relaxed architectural masterpiece this city has seen. By Christopher Hume [links]- Toronto Star

Frank Gehry talks about his AGO redesign: "If you love art, you have to pay attention to how you show it...the galleries for Ken Thomson's Canadian collection are the best I've ever done"..."Regrets?..."Barton Myers used to be a friend of mine. That weighs heavily on me." [links]- Toronto Star

A new look, a new bond with residents: Toronto's Art Gallery of Ontario unveils its revamped home in a state of happy detente with the neighbourhood...AGO is at last breaking out of the "ivory-tower syndrome"... -- John C. Parkin (1974-87); Barton Myers/KPMB (1993); Frank Gehry- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Renzo Piano's California Adventure Part II: San Francisco: California Academy of Sciences building...has the architect's well-known hallmarks: a light, elegant steel structure; precise details...lots of glass; and a layout as simple as a diagram...Perhaps that's why Piano's buildings work best on their own — they are a world apart. By Witold Rybczynski [slideshow essay]- Slate

Plotting the future of downtown: A four-day charrette..."Make no little plans"...isn't a recession a really good time to practice the ethos of "small is beautiful"?...It looks as if municipal poverty may again be called upon to preserve Providence from the experts. By David Brussat -- Design Collective- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Bay Area architects leaving imprints on city: Shanghai is turning out to be a gold mine for Bay Area architects...appears to be embracing the cornerstones of...design aesthetic: innovation, open space and sustainability. -- Gensler; Heller Manus; David Nieh- San Francisco Chronicle

British firms barred from US Embassy competition: US government admits 'foreign' firms will not be eligible to design the new embassy in London- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Students design out terror threat: Architecture and urban planning students in Bristol are being trained in how to reduce the impact of terrorism in the buildings they design.- BBC (UK)

Baguio takes second look at Burnham Plan: This city, the country's undisputed summer capital, was designed by Chicago-based architect Daniel Burnham to host 25,000 residents in 1906...local architects and urban planners have been busy studying how much of the city's development template could still be applied to an urban renewal campaign...[for] 300,000.... Philippine Daily Inquirer

Threatened: Midcentury Modern Lord & Taylor: Stamford, Connecticut, store is one of 12 designed by Andrew Gellar, Raymond Loewy's in-house architect. [image]- Preservation magazine

In Trinidad, a Painted Lady in Distress: The rapid disappearance of historic architecture is provoking a sometimes heated debate about the merits of historic preservation...the resistance to preservation reflects more than just a lack of incentive...Seen through the prism of independence politics, those buildings became symbols of an unpleasant past, with negative associations with slavery and colonialism. [slide show]- New York Times

Architecturally appealing: Three Czech buildings nominated for European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture, the Mies van der Rohe Award: Noted for their environmental friendliness and their ability to merge the old with the new and blend into their surroundings... -- Chalupa Architekti; Projektil Architekti; AP Atelier Praha [images]- The Prague Post

Call for Entries: ASLA 2009 Professional and Student Awards; deadlines: February 6, 2009 (Professional Awards), and May 29, 2009 (Student Awards)- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

2008 Gold Key Award Winners Announced: Roger Thomas of Wynn Design and Development named Designer of the Year, and Roger Milliken receives Icon of the Industry award. -- Champalimaud; Rockwell Group; Philippe Stark/SBE; CCS Architecture; Clodagh Design; Dirk Denison Architects; Dodd Mitchell Design; Zeff Design [images]- Interior Design magazine

The Big 5 Technical Conference Sets Green Standard: Regional and international experts to highlight green building solutions; includes The Big Green Trail and The Big 5 GAIA Awards; in Dubai, November 23-37- The Big 5

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